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CIA

The Central Intelligence Agency will most certainly be pruned as a result of the Cuban invasion fiasco. In the process the operations division of the agency will probably be transferred to the State or Defense Departments.

The peculiar combination of intelligence gathering and secret opera-

tions was inherited by the CIA from its predecessor, the World War II Office of Strategic Services. The OSS was almost a law unto itself under the leadership of Maj. Gen. William (Wild Bill) Donovan. It gathered intelligence, engaged in sabotage and led and supported partisan units operating behind the lines in Axis countries.

Evidence at hand indicates that Richard M. Bissell, deputy director of CIA, was in charge of the Cuban operation. This special Cuban section collated intelligence gathered from Cuban and domestic sources, trained rebel forces, supplied them with arms, ammunition and transportation, and produced estimates of the situation upon which President Kennedy acted in approving limited U. S. support of the landing. The failure of the effort raised serious doubts as to the advisability of combining the functions of intelligence collecting with direct operations based upon that intelligence.

The transfer of the operations function to some other agency will not interfere in the slightest with the CIA's primary mission of producing raw and refined intelligence, collating it and drawing up intelligence estimates. This would follow the British example of rigid separation of MI-6 (secret intelligence) and Special Operations. In most cases operations involve political and policy decisions that can be made properly only at the highest levels of government.